

Section 5 affects the Department of Institutions directing them to use in the Office of Mental Retardation some monitoring and reviewing procedures of each of the region community-based mental retardation regions and part of this will be the use of, since the state office is reduced some in this, is the use of other means of surveying the operation of each of the regions to make sure that they are in compliance with the intent of the legislation. State aid for community mental retardation, as I indicated earlier in the discussion with Senator Dworak's amendment, is the direction that the total amount of these funds are to be used for the movement of clients from Beatrice to a community-based programs. At least, that effort is to have prime use on those funds. The directions to the Department of Public Welfare in program 341, this is to encourage the Department of Public Welfare to continue what they have already started, some change in administrative structure which hopefully will add to some efficiency and more utilize existing staff that they now have. Program 342 would permit the department to participate through rules and regulations the compensation of welfare employees if a county board requests that this be done partially with state funds. Program 347 is directly to the public assistance suggesting that they move toward a payment standard for public assistance. It will be a uniform rate rather than the current standard which starts at a very low figure and then a number of things are added on item by item. Actually, probably a reduction in administrative cost will be accomplished by unifying some of those rather than the add on procedure that they now are doing. The next part of it permits the Department of Welfare to provide grants where there are handicapped recipients of public assistance but live in rental space. Currently, the Department does do this on owner occupied homes but they do not have the authorization to do it for individuals living in rental property and people who are handicapped and live in rental property do not have the...the landlord, that is, will not usually put these kind of facilities in and it is a minor amount of money that might be required but it does give the department the direction to consider that. Agency 7 is somewhat or section 7 is somewhat significant. It relates to the Department of Roads. Those of you who recall the discussion on the local transit funds that were contained in the Department of Roads budget in LB 539 will recall that there was language there suggesting that the department pick up part of the responsibility that used to be done by the Commission of Aging to provide local buses for senior citizens through the use of federal funds. There is some \$242,000, as I recall, available through various federal programs and this language is to direct the Department of Roads which has the sole responsibility for this activity now to work with the Commission of Aging in assisting in the acquisition of these transportation facilities in the various local communities. In the section dealing with the Department of Water Resources, it directs the agency to conduct a study to determine if appropriate water rights have been...that have been issued can be adequately supplied by current surface water resources and the findings of this study and any associated recommendations to come to the board or to the Legislature, the Executive Board, by January 1, 1978. Also, it would be the intent of the Legislature, the Department of Resources shall complete by June of next year preparation and distribution of drainway and watercourse maps as prescribed in Legislative Bill 795 that was enacted in 1976. In the